

# The Court Welcomes Its Newest Members

Chief Judge Edward J. Damich

July 10, 2003

On behalf of my fellow judges, I am pleased to announce the confirmation of, and extend a hearty welcome to, four new members of the Court of Federal Claims: **Susan G. Braden, Charles F. Lettow, Mary Ellen Coster Williams, and Victor J. Wolski**. With their addition to the Court, we now have 15 active judges (out of a full complement of 16 judges authorized by the Federal Courts Improvement Act of 1982), in addition to the valued assistance of a number of senior judges.

Our new members bring to the Court considerable expertise and distinguished careers. **Susan Braden** is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University School of Law and is admitted to the bars of Ohio and the District of Columbia. She has served as a Trial Attorney in Cleveland and as Senior Trial Attorney in Washington, D.C. in the Antitrust Division of the Department of Justice and as Senior Counsel and Assistant to the Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission. Since 1985, she has been a partner with a number of private firms and, most recently, of counsel, with the firm of Baker & McKenzie.

**Charles Lettow** has most recently been a partner in the law firm of Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton. He received his law degree from Stanford University, where he was Note Editor of the Stanford Law Review and a member of the Order of the Coif. He recently received an M.A. in history from Brown University. He served as counsel to the Council on Environmental Quality in the Executive Office of the President and was a law clerk to Chief Justice Warren Burger of the United States Supreme Court and to Judge Ben Duniway of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. He is a former chairman of the Environmental Controls Committee of the Section of Corporation, Banking and Business Law for the American Bar Association.

**Mary Ellen Coster Williams** has a Master's degree in Latin from Catholic University and a law degree from Duke University School of Law, where she served on the law journal editorial board. She worked in private practice with the firms of Fulbright & Jaworski; Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis; and Janis, Schuelke & Wechsler. In addition, she worked in the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington, D.C. A Life Fellow of the American Bar Association, she has served on the Advisory Council of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims and as vice chair of the ABA Section on Public Contract Law. She has most recently served as an administrative judge on the General Services Administration Board of Contract Appeals.

**Victor Wolski** is a graduate of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and received his law degree from the University of Virginia, where he served on the editorial board of the Virginia Tax Review. He has served as assistant to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and in the General Counsel's office of the U.S. Department of Energy. He is a member of the bars of California, Oregon, and Washington. He was tax counsel to former U.S. Senator Connie Mack and was General Counsel and Chief Tax Adviser to the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress. He has most recently practiced law with the firm of Cooper & Kirk.

We are delighted to welcome these distinguished lawyers to the ranks of the Court's "family" and to gain their assistance in the Court's mission of fair inquiry and complete justice for all who have claims against the government.